

CLAIMS:

1. A record carrier (10) comprising a plurality of stacked layers (12, 14, 16), the optical properties of at least a part of the stacked layers being changeable by applying heat, thereby providing a stack of optical property changing layers, so that a visible pattern can be written on the record carrier by applying a laser beam (18) to an upper surface of the stacked layers, wherein, depending on the power of the laser beam, the laser beam is able to reach the lower layers of the stack of optical property changing layers, characterized in that the temperature required to induce an optical property change increases from the upper to the lower optical property changing layers.
2. The record carrier according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of stacked layers comprises a substrate on top of which the stack of optical property changing layers is arranged, and wherein the highest temperature is required for inducing an optical property change of the optical property changing layer that is arranged at the smallest distance to the substrate.
3. The record carrier according to claim 1, wherein a cover layer is arranged on top of the optical property changing layers.
4. The record carrier according to claim 2, wherein the substrate is formed by an optical disk (20).
5. The record carrier according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of stacked layers comprises a substrate on top of which the stack of optical property changing layers is arranged, and wherein the highest temperature is required for inducing an optical property change of the optical property changing layer that is arranged at the greatest distance to the substrate.

6. The record carrier according to claim 1, wherein the stack of optical property changing layers comprises at least three layers, the optical power change being a color change and the color change of the at least three layers being different.
- 5 7. The record carrier according to claim 6, wherein the color change of a particular layer induced by the laser beam is determined by the material the particular layer is made of.
8. The record carrier according to claim 6, wherein the color change induced by
10 the laser beam is influenced by a chemical reaction between adjacent layers.
9. The record carrier according to claim 6, wherein interface layers (22, 24) are arranged between optical property changing layers.
- 15 10. A method of recording an image on a record carrier, the record carrier comprising a plurality of stacked layers, the optical properties of at least a part of the stacked layers being changeable by applying heat, thereby providing a stack of optical property changing layers, so that a visible pattern can be written on the record carrier by applying a laser beam to an upper surface of the stacked layers, wherein, depending on the power of the
20 laser beam, the laser beam is able to reach the lower layers of the stack of optical property changing layers, characterized in that the temperature required to induce an optical property change increases from the upper to the lower optical property changing layers.
11. An optical recorder for recording an image on a record carrier according to
25 any of claims 1 to 9.